



STATE OF ARIZONA

JANET NAPOLITANO  
GOVERNOR

OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR  
1700 WEST WASHINGTON STREET, PHOENIX, AZ 85007

MAIN PHONE: 602-542-4331  
FACSIMILE: 602-542-7601

April 19, 2005

The Honorable Ken Bennett  
President of the Senate  
Arizona State Senate  
1700 West Washington  
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

Re: Senate Bill 1342: election procedures; voting equipment

Dear President Bennett:

Today I signed Senate Bill 1342, relating to the use of voting equipment and procedures for federal and state elections.

I strongly support the provision of this bill requiring electronic voting systems to "provide a paper document or ballot that visually indicates the voter's selections." This provision begins to bring Arizona into conformity with the many states that have recently enacted legislation requiring that all electronic voting systems produce voter verifiable paper audit trails. I write, however, to state my belief that our law should go further by specifying that the paper ballot be deemed the official record of the vote in a challenged election. Without such a requirement, a paper ballot tally that conflicts with the electronic count merely demonstrates election error, without providing a mechanism to correct it.

I would welcome the opportunity to work closely with the legislature, Secretary Brewer, and all stakeholders to develop legislation to improve the law in this regard. Such an improvement would go a long way in promoting public confidence in the integrity of electronic voting systems.

Yours very truly,

A handwritten signature of Janet Napolitano in dark ink, featuring a stylized 'J' and 'N' followed by a horizontal flourish.

Janet Napolitano  
Governor

JN:ND/jm

cc: The Honorable Jim Weiers  
The Honorable Marilyn Jarrett  
The Honorable Jan Brewer